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Dryer Caused Milton Fatal Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Milton Fire Chief Malcolm R. Larson and Police Chief Richard J. Wells Jr. have announced their joint investigation into today's fatal fire at 58 Sheldon Street in Milton has determined that a dryer was the most probable cause. Norfolk District Attorney William Keating's Office confirmed that Richard Shannon died in the fire. He was the only occupant in the multi-unit dwelling when the fire occurred around noontime.

Investigators believe that lint from the dryer accumulated in the long vent pipe and was eventually ignited by the heat of the dryer and then ignited structural members.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "It is important to clean the lint filter in a clothes dryer after every load, and to vacuum the motor area and the dryer vent a few times a year in order to prevent dryer fires." According to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System, in 2006, there were 97 clothes dryer fires that caused one civilian fire death, two civilian injuries, two firefighter injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$489,922.

Chief Larson said, "This is the second fatal fire in Milton in recent months and it is a great tragedy for our community. As fire chief, I ask everyone to make sure their smoke alarms are working, hold home fire drills and to practice good fire prevention every day."

The fire is being jointly investigated by the Milton Fire Department, Milton Police Department, and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and to the Norfolk District Attorney's Office.

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